

“ In line with Transformational Government Policy and to ensure trust and confidence, Government information systems must use appropriate security products and services which have a minimum assurance of the CCTM ”

Central Sponsor for Information Assurance.



For more information about the CCTM Scheme go to www.cctmark.gov.uk

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How to deliver confidence in information assurance for your product and service claims



CESG Claims Tested Mark (CCTM)

Information Assurance (IA) is the confidence that information systems will protect the information they carry and will function as they need to, when they need to, under the control of legitimate users.

Government is transforming the way it delivers services. It's providing online public services for people when and how they want. But the ICT systems and the information they hold must be secure and reliable to ensure public confidence in dealing with an e-enabled modern government. The Transformational Government – enabled by technology strategy states that “underpinning IT systems must be secure and convenient for those intended to use them”.

Many public sector organisations use off the shelf information security products. How can they be sure that they will meet their requirements? Do the products really do what they say they can?

What is the CCTM Scheme?

The CCTM Scheme is a quick and cost effective way of testing the security functionality of IA Products or IA Services.

CCTM products and services can be used across the wider public sector (inc. local authorities, NHS, education, criminal justice and police) as well as Central Government and MoD to address risks at Impact Level 2 and below. Exceptionally, CCTM products and services may be used to mitigate risks with higher Impact Levels, e.g. where there are no alternatives available with the appropriate assurance level.

The IACS Directory includes CCTM products and services listings.

How does it work?

Each product or service that is awarded the CCTM must go through the following process:

- Vendors translate marketing statements about their product or service into claims and produce an Information Assurance Claims Document (ICD)
- Vendor selects and agrees a contract with a Test Laboratory for claims testing.
- Vendor registers with CESG to have their product or service tested against their ICD.
- The Scheme reviews the claims made by the vendor about their product or service, as well as looking at marketing and guidance documents and accepts the application for claims testing.
- Vendor's chosen CCTM Test Laboratory starts testing the functionality of the product or service against the claims that are made in the ICD and issues a test report.
- If successful the Scheme awards the CCTM for a period of two years for a product and one year for a service. Details are published on the Government website.

Who tests the claims?

- The CCTM Scheme has appointed several test laboratories.
- All are approved to validate the security functionality claims of products and services for the Scheme.
- All are generalist test laboratories.
- Some can undertake specialist testing including anti virus, hardware, smart cards and data erasure.

Full details of all the Test Laboratories are on the CCTM website.

Key Benefits of CCTM

- ✓ **Cost Effective**
Registration with the Scheme costs £1000. The Test Laboratory should charge between £10,000 - £20,000 per application for claims testing and producing the ICD.
- ✓ **Rapid Timeframe**
From registration to award usually takes 10-12 weeks.
- ✓ **Independently Tested**
Products and services are tested by laboratories who are accredited to an International Standard, ISO17025, providing consistency in testing using the claims test method.
- ✓ **Customer Visibility**
The ICD and test report summary are available on the Government CCTM website, which can be linked to from your website so that potential customers can verify the claims and award.
- ✓ **Products**
Claims testing includes looking at ease of using or installing the product as well as checking the accuracy of guidance documentation and claims of additional assurance certificates.
- ✓ **Services**
The CCTM is the only scheme that assures IA services. Existing customers of the Service are interviewed to ensure their experience matches the claims being made. Procedures are verified that they operate as stated in the claims made. Services can also go through the maintenance part of the scheme to extend the award for an additional year.

